

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An information record medium on which there are recorded:

a series of content information;

menu information ~~as for said content information, for~~
displaying a menu-screen of which is to be superimposed on a
display-screen of ~~displayed with~~ said content information during reproduction of said content information; and

play list information for defining reproduction sequence of said content information by a unit of item, which constitutes said content information and which is accessible upon reproducing,

said play list information including: item information for specifying each item which constitutes said content information by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the item; and slave item information for specifying said menu information as a slave item by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the slave item,

wherein said menu information includes information for displaying a button which is displayed in the menu-screen.

22. (previously presented) The information record medium according to claim 21, wherein said menu information is displayed with being superimposed on or in place of one portion of said content information or is not displayed at all.

23. (previously presented) The information record medium according to claim 21, wherein said menu information specified by the slave item information is further recorded in said play list information, as common information commonly used by a plurality of slave items.

24. (previously presented) The information record medium according to claim 21, on which there is further recorded reproduction control information for controlling such that said menu information specified by the slave item information is displayed with being superimposed on or in place of one portion of said content information corresponding to said menu information specified by the slave item information or is not displayed at all.

25. (currently amended) An information record apparatus, comprising:

a first record device for recording a series of content information and menu information for displaying a menu-screen of
~~as for said content information,~~ which is to be displayed
~~with~~superimposed on a display-screen of said content information during reproduction of said content information; and

a second record device for recording play list information for defining reproduction sequence of said content information by a unit of item, which constitutes said content information and which is accessible upon reproducing,

said second record device recording said play list information such that said play list information includes: item information for specifying each item which constitutes said content information by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the item; and slave item information for specifying said menu information as a slave item by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the slave item,

wherein said menu information includes information for displaying a button which is displayed in the menu-screen.

26. (currently amended) An information record method, comprising:

a first record process of recording a series of content information and menu information ~~as for said content information,~~
for displaying a menu screen which is to be superimposed on a display screen of ~~displayed with said content information during~~
reproduction of said content information; and

a second record process of recording play list information for defining reproduction sequence of said content information by a unit of item, which constitutes said content information and which is accessible upon reproducing,

said second record process recording said play list information such that said play list information includes: item information for specifying each item which constitutes said content information by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the item; and slave item information for specifying said menu information as a slave item by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the slave item,

wherein said menu information includes information for displaying a button which is displayed in the menu-screen.

27. (previously presented) An information reproduction apparatus for reproducing said information record medium according to claim 21, said information reproduction apparatus comprising:

a reproduction device capable of reproducing said content information, said menu information and said play list information;

a displaying and outputting device capable of displaying and outputting said content information and said menu information; and

a control device for controlling said reproduction device to reproduce said content information and said menu information, in accordance with the item information and the slave item information included in said play list information reproduced by said reproducing device.

28. (previously presented) The information reproduction apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising a buffer memory for maintaining said reproduced menu information in a readily displayable and outputtable condition, for a predetermined period, regardless of whether or not said reproduced menu information is displayed and outputted by said displaying and outputting device.

29. (previously presented) An information reproduction method of reproducing said information record medium according to claim 21 on an information reproduction apparatus comprising: (i) a reproduction device capable of reproducing said content information, said menu information and said play list information; and (ii) a displaying and outputting device capable of displaying and outputting said content information and said menu information,

said information reproduction method comprising:

a first control process of controlling said reproducing device to reproduce said play list information; and

a second control process of controlling said reproducing device to reproduce said content information and said menu information, in accordance with the item information and the slave item information included in said play list information reproduced by said reproducing device.

30. (currently amended) An information record reproduction apparatus, comprising:

a first record device for recording a series of content information and menu information ~~as for said content information,~~
for displaying a menu-screen which is to be superimposed on a display-screen of ~~displayed with~~ said content information during reproduction of said content information;

a second record device for recording play list information for defining reproduction sequence of said content information by a unit of item, which constitutes said content information and which is accessible upon reproducing,

said second record device recording said play list information such that said play list information includes: item information for specifying each item which constitutes said content information by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the item; and slave item information for specifying said menu information as a slave item by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the slave item,

wherein said menu information includes information for displaying a button which is displayed in the menu-screen;

a reproduction device capable of reproducing said content information, said menu information, and said play list information;

a displaying and outputting device capable of displaying and outputting said content information and said menu information; and

a control device for controlling said reproduction device to reproduce said content information and said menu information, in accordance with the item information and the slave item information included in said play list information reproduced by said reproducing device.

31. (currently amended) An information record reproduction method on an information reproduction apparatus comprising: (i) a reproduction device capable of reproducing content information, menu information and play list information; and (ii) a displaying and outputting device capable of displaying and outputting said content information and said menu information,

said information record reproduction method comprising:

a first record process of recording a series of content information and menu information ~~as for said content information, for displaying a menu-screen~~ which is to be ~~displayed with superimposed on a display-screen of~~ said content information during reproduction of said content information;

a second record process of recording play list information for defining reproduction sequence of said content information by a unit of item, which constitutes said content information and which is accessible upon reproducing,

said second record process recording said play list information such that said play list information includes: item information for specifying each item which constitutes said content information by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the item; and slave item information for specifying said menu information as a slave item by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the slave item,

wherein said menu information includes information for displaying a button which is displayed in the menu-screen; and

a first control process of controlling said reproducing device to reproduce said content information and said menu information, in accordance with the item information and the slave item information included in said play list information reproduced by said reproducing device.

32. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording thereon a computer program for a record control to control a computer disposed at the information record apparatus according to claim 25, said program making the computer function as at least a part of the first record device and the second record device.

33. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording thereon a computer program for a reproduction control to control a computer disposed at the information reproduction apparatus according to claim 27, said program making the computer function as at least a part of the reproduction device, the displaying and outputting device and the control device.

34. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording thereon a computer program for a record reproduction control to control a computer disposed at the information record reproduction apparatus according to claim 31, said program making the computer function as at least a part of the first record device, the second record device, the reproduction device, the displaying and outputting device and the control device.

35. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording thereon a data structure including a control signal, comprising

a series of content information;

menu information for displaying a menu-screen ~~as for said content information,~~ which is to be superimposed on a display-screen of ~~displayed with said content information during~~ reproduction of said content information; and

play list information for defining reproduction sequence of said content information by a unit of item, which constitutes said content information and which is accessible upon reproducing,

said play list information including: item information for specifying each item which constitutes said content information by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the item; and slave item information for specifying said menu information as a slave item by indicating both of a reproduction start time and a reproduction end time of the slave item,

wherein said menu information includes information for displaying a button which is displayed in the menu-screen.